

**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
M I N U T E S**

Thursday, August 22, 2001

2:00 - 4:30 p.m.

State Capitol, Room 127

Salt Lake City, UT 84114

MEMBERS & ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT

BREHM, Michael Brehm	Environmental LLC
EMBLEY, Phyllis	Jordan School District
ALLIS, Rick	Utah Geological Survey
JOHNSON, Susan	Futura Industries
MILLER, Brent	Utah State University
LUND, Gary	Thiokol Corporation
RICKS, Gary	Legislative Fiscal Analyst
TAKACH, Troy	Parvus Corporation
MOULDING, Brett	USOE
DOENGES, Peter	Evans and Sutherland, Corp
HOOPER, Gary	Brigham Young University
PUGMIRE, Ron	University of Utah for Ray Gesteland

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

WADE, Joseph	Legislative Research
ROGERS, Earl	Dept of Agriculture

OTHERS PRESENT:

WINTERS, Suzanne	State Science Advisor
WALTERS, Clara	GOPB
HALE, Terri	Utah MESA/STEP

I. Call to Order/Introductions/Approval of Minutes

Gary Hooper called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. The June 28, 2001 minutes were approved. The April 25th minutes will be scheduled for approval at the next Council meeting.

II. Committee Reports

A. Governor's Medal Committee - Brent Miller

Criteria and Over-all Points of Change - Brent Miller

An ad-hoc committee was selected to go over the Governor's Medal Award criteria and all its aspects. Brent reviewed the recommendations of the Committee for consideration by the full Council.

- Nominations should be sought more pro-actively and effectively to receive more and higher quality nominations
- Simplify the nomination process to increase the number of nominations by creating a two tier application form
- Include a "Special" award category
- Expand the financial base of the awards
- Enhance media coverage
- Discontinue the "Team" award category

Discussion was opened to the Council on the recommendations. A question was asked about the rationale of discontinuing the "Team" award category. It was felt the criteria for the Team category were too dissimilar to the other categories. The medal is for lifetime achievement and teams generally focus on projects which are relatively short term and do not necessarily involve a lifetime achievement. In opting to remove the "Team" category, the committee looked at creating a new area called "Special" in which teams may be represented.

Press Release and Mailings - Suzanne Winters

Suzanne reported that last year she sent out approximately 2,200 nomination forms and received fewer nominations than the previous year when only 600 were sent. DCED has a Business/Industry data base that was accessed for names, but because companies are listed by SEC codes, it is difficult to know if the notification is reaching all the companies that would consider submitting a nomination. Suzanne suggested having each member of the Council review the data set for names with which each is familiar and providing specific contact information to her.

Suzanne will work on developing a PR campaign, including sending announcements to the Utah Life Sciences Association and UITA to place in their flyers, to Brett Moulding to insert in his semi-annual newsletter. She will send an email to members of the Council asking for associations they are aware of, contact name and address of the associations and other groups who have newsletters where an announcement might be placed. She has assembled the names and address of Deans and chairs of every technical department at the three universities who will be added to the mailing list.

It was suggested to submit a series of articles and pictures to the newspapers highlighting past recipients and what impact their work has had in the State.

Nomination Form - Mike Brehm

Mike came up with a two-step process to simplify the nomination, allowing for strong candidates to be identified or nominated. The concept is first, a one page structured form to pinpoint the qualifications of a nominee, (who they are and what they have done, etc). Subsequent to receiving the first page, the Medal review will quickly review these and on that basis, move forward or proceed to a second step where more involved information is requested. The one page nomination form will be available on the web page to download and submit.

Mike then read parts of his proposed changes to the Criteria. As it was not complete, he will finish it and send it out to the members. He then suggested a time line for the awards: sending out requests for nominations in late November and again in early December, nominations accepted and reviewed in January, coordination of the Governor's schedule in February, invitation to recipients in March and the luncheon in April or May.

Action Item: Mike will finish changes to Criteria and send to Council members.

New Category - Brent Miller

Brent suggested that there are people who have made great contributions to the State, who no longer live here. As the criteria are stated, individuals cannot receive recognition without current residency. Therefore, the Committee suggested a new category, termed "Special Award" which would not necessarily be awarded every year. This is also where teams could possibly be recognized. The Council decided to shelve this section for further discussion at a later meeting.

Financial - Gary Hooper

Gary reminded the Council of last year's financial recognition at the awards ceremony to the school of the Education category recipient. He suggested the Council consider a financial strategy for each award and how to raise the money to do it. It could be in the form of a scholarship, however the kind and level will be addressed. Gary will develop a plan for putting the ways and means together and report at the next Council meeting.

Action Item: Gary Hooper will report on how to include a financial strategy to the Governor's Medal Awards and has agreed to lead the effort at soliciting funds.

B. SVA/Education Task Group - Suzanne Winters

Co-Chairs for the Education Task Group are Dave Pershing and Suzanne. Dave is focusing on issues at the higher education level, while Suzanne is covering K-12. She has held two meetings, dividing up the issues as:

- Teachers--What can be done to empower teachers in terms of incentives and better preparation
- Students--How to attract larger numbers to SMET and better prepare them to enter the universities
- Programs--How to introduce programs of "simulation teaching" to teachers and students

One of the initial topics under consideration is increasing the number of required science and math courses in high schools from 2 to 3 years.

C. SVA/Technology Transfer Group - Gary Hooper

This group has just been assembled under the direction of Steve Prescott of the Huntsman Cancer Institute. The first meeting should be at the end of August. This committee will discuss ways to engage university faculty in productive research, from the research and creative side, to full development and transfer to commercialization.

D. Discussion of other Standing Committees

Suzanne told the Council of two Standing Committees still in operation under the Science Council. The Citizen's Advisory Commission for Chemical Weapons Demilitarization (CAC), which oversees operations at the Tooele Chemical Agent Destruction Facility in Tooele, Utah. Technically a subcommittee of the Council, they have not reported to the Council recently.

The other Standing Committee is the Nuclear Waste Task Force which coordinates agencies monitoring nuclear waste transportation through the State. This committee also has not reported to the Council for a period of time.

Suzanne suggested she request the two standing committees prepare a short presentation to the Council in the near future.

Action Item: Suzanne will request the CAC and the Nuclear Waste Task Force representatives to give a yearly update on their status to the Council.

III. Reassignment/Focus of Science Advisor - Suzanne Winters

Suzanne announced a physical move of her office from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget to the Department of Community and Economic Development at 324 South State Street. The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget is moving towards becoming a budget office only. With the Governor's focus on the Utah Technology Alliance (Silicon Valley Alliance), the move will facilitate the work she does with the Alliance.

Gary wanted the Statute of the Council sent out to the members for them to review. He feels the course the Council has taken in the past year is a viable one and worth continuing, but believes that the Council must be aggressive with the Governor on what the Council can do. A discussion followed regarding "marketing" the

services of the Council to the Legislature and Governor. Gary suggested the Council discuss directions for future focus at the next meeting.

Action Item: Clara will send out the Statute and By-laws to all members. The direction of the Council will be discussed at the next meeting.

IV. Science and Technology Policy for the State of Utah

Suzanne circulated science and technology policies from several other states. Plans such as these can be a master plan of do's and don'ts. Most other states are putting millions of dollars into developing a science and technology research infra-structure. At present, the only technology development/commercialization program our State funds is the "Centers of Excellence" program. Every year COEP must work to keep their funds from being cut.

She told the Council that someone must put forward to the Governor and Legislature, that if our state wants to maintain economic credibility in a science and technology-based economy, then it must prepare and execute a science and technology policy involving significant investments. The Council believes the legislature should be educated on what it takes to be competitive as a science and technology state and examples from other states may be used as the basis for it.

Suzanne and Gary felt there are ways for the Council to be more effective on issues specific to S&T, particularly involving economic development. It was suggested a committee be put together to look at "marketing SAC" or sort of a "Friends of the SAC" to identify and implement these ideas. It was so moved by the Council.

Action Item: Ron Pugmire, Troy Takach, Pete Doenges, and Gary Lund will meet offline to work on some ideas.

V. Other Business

The Research Committee of the Utah Partnership that has previously worked on similar issues as the Council. Val Finlayson suggested that the two groups might like to work together on issues of mutual interest. Last fall, the Partnership Research Committee identified two issues to address: Technology transfer from the universities and increasing the interest and pursuit of science and engineering by a greater number of students. Committees of the Utah Technology Alliance (Silicon Valley Alliance) are addressing both of these issues however, it is believed that there are other issues which need attention appropriate for the Research Committee. Suzanne will work with Val to schedule a joint meeting of the groups.

Suzanne requested a nomination for Member-at-Large for the Executive Committee. Pete Doenges was nominated and by, unanimous vote, elected to be the next Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee of the Science Council.

The next meeting will be October 24, 2001 at 2:00 p.m., in room 127 of the State Capitol.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.